



Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood News

Winter/Spring 2004

Sidewalks in the Neighborhood

Just before Christmas, Pima County delivered the needed Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to the City of Tucson. This will allow the city, from whom we received a \$150,000 Back to Basics grant, to work with the county, from whom we received a \$150,000 Neighborhood Reinvestment grant, to put the money together for the Jefferson Park Sidewalks Project.

The current Plan for sidewalks is to build them on both sides of Seneca between Mountain and Campbell, both sides of Hampton between Mountain and Martin, and both sides of Edison between Mountain and Campbell.

The choice of where to put sidewalks was influenced by traffic flow and the elementary school. Edison street experiences cut through traffic, particularly during rush hours and it has a lot of on street parking so sidewalks are needed to provide a place for pedestrians to walk safely. Adding sidewalks to Seneca and Hampton is an effort to begin to build a network of sidewalks radiating from the elementary school. There are sidewalks along Campbell and along Mountain, both running north and South. Sidewalks along Hampton and Seneca will join these two existing sidewalks together and feed directly to the Jefferson Park elementary school.

The hope is that construction will begin in April but it will depend on the bid process, and the construction company hired to do the work.

Security, Insecurity or Just Obnoxious Lighting?

In our neighborhood, we are all fairly familiar with the noise trespassing from, shall we say, some of our less considerate, loud neighbors. There is another type of trespass occurring... from outdoor lighting. We probably notice this type of trespass most often when we are trying to get to sleep, or, for some of us who

are amateur astronomers, we notice it when the glare of trespassing light ruins our night vision.

Noise trespass is of course inexcusable, but we can all understand our neighbors' need to secure themselves and their possessions using outside lighting. The question is, though, "How does the light that shines in my yard (or bedroom window all night) make that other house more secure?" The simple answer is that it doesn't; that light is wasted. Upward directed light is also wasted (and makes our astronomically world famous dark skies not so attractive to astronomers). The light trespass I mentioned above usually comes from a 175-watt dusk-to-dawn light; although it costs only about \$30, a ballast causes it to use over 200 watts or about \$70 per year to operate (at about \$.08/kWh). Aside from this waste of energy, this type of light casts harsh shadows, and, since it casts light sideways, its glaring light goes into the homeowner's (your) eyes. Together, these drawbacks mean that you may not be able to see someone hiding in the shadows; however, they will be able to see you. Check out how well you can see in the shadows with a sideways shining, outside light nearby.

So that is the problem in a nutshell, and here is a brief summary of some solutions and their benefits in terms of better security and saving money. Use a well-shielded fixture, which directs light to the ground. This type of fixture keeps the light where it can help you see, and out of your eyes, so not blinding you. The Tucson-based International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) suggests low-pressure sodium (LPS) bulbs, since they are energy efficient (about 30 watts) and reduce glare; I use compact fluorescent (CF) bulbs (about 20 watts). These shielded fixtures are more expensive (about \$120 or more), but with an 80-90% savings in operating cost and long-lasting LPS or CF bulbs, it does not take too many years to recover this extra cost. The IDA points out that in order to see well, we need to minimize dark areas near well-lit areas. Two well-designed and efficient fixtures, well positioned to eliminate areas of shadow, can provide more true security,

without wasting energy or trespassing on your neighbors' sleep time.

For more detailed information on the problems and solutions (and their associated benefits), check out the web-site of the Tucson-based International Dark-Sky Association (<http://www.darksky.org/>). The IDA web-site provides links to light suppliers, specializing in energy efficient, truly security lighting.

Gleaning Project and the Farmer's Market

Jefferson Park and SAMOS Neighborhood mapping and harvesting projects have been sponsored by the City of Tucson to teach youth new skills and learn about redistribution of locally grown food resources. The students canvassed mapped and harvested excess fruits and vegetables in the neighborhoods and hosted free farmer's markets/food exchanges after processing some of the extra fruits and herbs harvested.

Donations were then made to needy families, elderly neighbors, and five organizations that feed Tucsonans regularly. The students are now documenting the project by updating last year's website: <http://www.tug.bara.arizona.edu> on a volunteer basis. In addition, volunteers are harvesting the bountiful citrus that is now in season to help provide fresh fruit to African Refugee Families. If you are interested in helping or have fruit to donate please call Barbara Eiswerth at 440-0100.

Parking Fines and Penalties

Neighbors need to know that we are in a special parking enforcement zone and that many of our everyday parking practices are subject to hefty fines. For example: Parking on the landscaped or dirt area between the road and the property line is subject to a \$50 fine. If there is a sidewalk, parking on it is a \$150 fine! Same fine for parking more than 18" from the curb or in the wrong direction.

Really confusing are the directions for avoiding a \$150 fine for parking:

- Within 20 feet of crosswalk, departing side of intersection
- Within 5 feet of a driveway
- Within 10 feet of an alley
- Within 30 feet of a stop sign or other traffic control devices (yield sign, etc.)
- Within 30 feet of an intersection, approaching side

Many of these curbs used to be painted to

warn us but the city is no longer painting and the fines will be levied whether the curb is painted or not.

This enforcement is not only in our neighborhood but other neighborhoods, especially those adjacent to the UA or downtown so BEWARE.

I will be willing to e-mail you a more complete list if you contact me at nskrekko@theriver.com or you can access City and State Laws at www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/government or call the City Clerk at 791-4213 or Parkwise at 791-5071

Neighborhood Watch a Real Benefit

It has been proven that in areas where there is an active Neighborhood Watch there are fewer burglaries. Neighborhood Watch goes far beyond crime, however. Neighborhood Watch means neighbors communicate about all sorts of things. In our watch many lost animals have found their way home thanks to our efforts. There is more peace of mind knowing your neighbor cares and will react by calling 911 if they see something suspicious.

At the present time burglaries are high in the area just to the north of Jefferson Park and the Tucson Police Department (TPD) is working very hard to try and reduce the problem for this area. Concentrating on a specific area has been very beneficial, but for us it means we need to be particularly alert to what is going on around us. As more and more of our houses become rentals, this becomes more difficult. It is not, however, impossible. We need to communicate with TPD and each other....and quickly. For many of us this means e-mail, for others the telephone.

TPD will get us information about what is happening in our area that can be shared with everyone on the lists, but this information takes time to generate so will probably come once a month. WE can share with each other instantly. We can make a real difference by forming Neighborhood Watches all through this neighborhood. It's easy. As soon as possible talk to the residents on your block. Are there five or six of you willing to work together to form a neighborhood watch? This is the first step. If you have a group such as this you can start the process to become an official neighborhood watch group. Your next step would be to have a meeting at one of your homes with a police officer. If you have a group and would like to have one I can explain more to you about what a neighborhood watch group does, and what is expected of a group leader. Lynne 327 8774

Dyer Lytle	President	881 6122	dyer@lpl.arizona.edu
Bob Schlanger	Vice President	624 7783	rlsbcs@liveline.com
Ron Mastaler	Executive VP	622 1516	mastaler@atmo.arizona.edu
Jessie Byrd	Secretary	370 1667	Jessie-byrd@hotmail.com
Jennifer Linehan	Treasurer	440 5142	lineman@u.arizona.edu
Shirley Wetmore	Area 1 rep	326 1672	wetmore@geo.arizona.edu
Nobody	Area 2 rep	none	
Nobody	Area 3 rep	none	
Christine Villela	Area 4 rep	292 9032	
Janet Ornstein	Area 5 rep	622 6734	
Benny Clayton	Area 5 rep	623 7473	
Nancy Martin	Area 6 rep	622 1506	
Susanne Trapmann	Area 6 rep	740 0757	

Non Emergency Calls to the Police	791-4444 Daytime
Mid Town Police Office	791-4253
Helicopter Noise Calls	694-3000
	if no answer call
	1-800-642-7828
Tucson City Weed Violation	791-3171
Kathleen Dunbar, Council Member Ward III Office	791-4711
Carol Clark, Bennet Burnell Ward III Office	791-4711
Animal Control (to report strays)	743-7550

On those blocks where there are not residents willing to form a Neighborhood Watch group you can still make a difference by sharing information. Communication is the key. Sharing information will better protect us all. Bob Schlanger, the Vice President of the Jefferson Park Neighborhood, can be contacted by e-mail at rlsbcs@liveline.com. Bob has an e-mail contact list that you can be added to if you are not already on it. If you do not have an e-mail address call one of the officers or contact people and tell them you would like your name, address and phone number added to the contact list for Neighborhood Watch in Jefferson Park.

The first choice should be an official Neighborhood Watch group. If this is not possible then by adding your name to the e-mail or phone list you can still be a part of the larger group. Ideally we would have a Neighborhood Watch group on each and every block that would also communicate with each other and the neighborhood as a whole....but we need to go with what we can. We **can** make a difference.

TPD stated that for the first six weeks of 2004 there were 11 burglaries in this area. 7 had forced entry and 4 did not.

- LOCK YOUR DOORS and WINDOWS!
- Plan Ahead....
- HAVE GOOD LOCKS AND USE THEM.
- LIGHTS are a good deterrent...Motion sensors work well outside.

Be sure your house number appears on the front and rear of your property.
Keep trees and shrubs trimmed so you can see the house...don't them be a hiding place for the bad guy.
Use lights on timers inside if you come home after dark.
Let a trusted neighbor know if you will be gone and ask them to take in your mail and paper.
Have a radio playing tuned to a talk station.
When you leave, turn around.... Does your property look occupied? What can you do to make it look occupied?
COMMUNICATE...Care and share.

Volunteers Needed

We are beginning work on writing a Jefferson Park Neighborhood Plan. This document will describe the strengths and character of the neighborhood and serve as a guideline for future development. We are also considering seeking historic district status at the national level. Both of these endeavors will require time and energy. Please volunteer! (Contact any board member)

Next JPNA General Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2004
7:00 PM

Ward III Council Office
Engine Room
(Grant & Vine)

Agenda:

Lights and Dark Skies
Neighborhood Watch
Neighborhood Plan

Dated Material

JEFFERSON PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT # 426

Department of Neighborhood Resources
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

